(b) and (c) Non-POL imports registered on increase during 1992-93 and 1993-94 due to increased growth of industrial production -and import-linked exports; the Major share of imports is constituted by raw materials, intermediates, inputs and capital goods. The Export-Import Policy, inter-alia, aims to encourage efficient and internationally competitive import substitution within the liberalised framework of foreign trade.

Reduction in Trade Between India and Nepal

2051. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether after coming into power of the Communist Government in Nepal, there has been reduction in the trade between the two countries;

(b) if so, how much reduction has taken place in terms of percentage between the present and the past regimes; and

(c) the reaction of Government to the reduction in the trade and what steps does Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Statistics for India-Nepal trade, since the present Government of Nepal came into power, that has become available so far, is limited. It indicates no significant deviation from the trade pattern in the proceeding months.

functioning of the Committee on Labour Standards

2052. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the National Labour Unions have opposed the appointment of the Chairman of the Committee to consider the question of Labour Standards and refused to sit with him as reported in the 'Hindu' dated the 8th August, 1994; and

(b) if so, whether Government would consider reconstituting this Commission to secure the cooperation of Indian Labour and to safeguard Indian Labour Rights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The CITU, AITUC and the HMS are reported to have questioned the need for the setting up of a separate Commission but the report does not state that the Unions refused to sit with him.

(b) There is no such proposal before the Government.

Rising Prices of Tea and Coffee

2053. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of tea and coffee have risen high in the recent months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to bring down the prices of the Commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The price of Coffee had experienced a sharp rise since June, 1994. However, prices have stabilised over the last few weeks. The unprecedented price rise was due to sharp increase of price of coffee in the international market owing to reported loss of crop on account of Brazilian frost. The international prices had a significant influence on the domestic price movement.

The average prkes of all teas at Indian auctions during the months of August, September, October, November,

shown decline over the corresponding period of previous five years.

(c) The Government had put a quantitative restriction on export of coffee besides banning export of few grades of coffee from August 1994. These restrictions were removed on 31st December, 1994 after prices had stabilised. However, the price of coffee continues to be influenced by international novement of prices as well as supply-demand balance.

Sugar Purchased by STC and MMTC

2054. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of sugar recently purchased by the State Trading Corporation and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC);

(b) whether it was a part of the commercial trading by these two agencies;

(c) if so, how was it disposed of and at what profit; and

(d) if not, the end-use of this white sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Pursuant to Government's directive to purchase sugar on forward contracting, both STC and MMTC taken together have so far contracted a quantity of about 3-63 lakh tonnes of sugar at an average C&F price of about US $ 427.65 PMT with delivery schedules in July and August '95. Decision on the end use of this sugar has not so far been taken.

मध्य प्रदेश में भारतीय खाद्य निगम के गोदामों की स्थापना किए जाने का प्रस्ताव

2055. श्री अजीत जोगी: क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार का मध्य प्रदेश के ऐसे जिलों में भारतीय खाद्य निगम के कार्यालय/गोदाम स्थापित किए जाने का कोई प्रस्ताव है, जिनमें इस समय कोई भी कार्यालय/गोदाम नहीं है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

खाद्य मंत्री (श्री अजीत सिंह): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) भारतीय खाद्य निगम का मध्य प्रदेश क्षेत्र में तीन जिला कार्यालय, जिनके मुख्यालय मंदिरहुसौद, बस्तर और इटारसी में होंगे और (1) नेवरा (2) धामात्री (3) कटनी में तीन गोदाम स्थापित करने का प्रस्ताव है। मेघनगर में गोदाम निर्माणाधीन है।

(ग) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Demand of Foodgrains from States

2056. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is surplus of foodgraings exceeding 30 million tonnes with the F.C.I.;

(b) what are the details of foodgrains supplied to various States and Union Territories by the FCI;

(c) whether there has been any demand from State of Orissa to increase the quota of foodgrains to be distributed through P.D.S.; and

(d) if so, why the demand has not been fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes Sir. The stock position of rice and wheat in the Central Pool with FCI as on 1.1.1995 was as under:—

(In Million Tonnes)

RICE	WHEAT	TOTAL
17.45	12.88	30.33

(b) A quantity of 43.18 lakh tonnes wheat and 73.04 lakh tonnes rice has been supplied to State Governments/ Union Territories during the current financial year 1994-95 (Upto February, 1995).

(c) and (d) Recently no such request